GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3137
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2001
DEFICIENCIES IN PDS
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified several deficiencies in the implementation of the present Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of PDS;

(d) whether the Prime Minister has advised certain changes in the system;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent of changes incorporated in the Scheme so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a),(b)&(c): Public Distribution System(PDS) is operated under thejoint responsibility of the Centre and State Governments. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportationof the PDS commodities upto the designated depots and making them available to the States, the responsibility of distribution of the essential commodities to the consumers through the Fair Price shops and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations.

As multiple agencies including a large network of FPSs are involved in PDS operations, thepossibility of deficiencies in the implementation of the PDS cannot be ruled out.The State Governments have been requested to closely monitor the PDS at the Fair Price Shops (FPS) and other levels and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent andaccountable manner by involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).Involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in the implementation of TPDS as a measure of social audit will make the system more transparent and accountable.

(d): No, Sir.

(e)&(f): Do not arise.